

## Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W  
----- 016028

R 211322 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1784

SECDEF WASHDC

CJCS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 6172

EXDIS

FOR STATE/ AID

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ECON, MOPS, CB

SUBJ: RICE AND LOC SECURITY

REF: PHNOM PENH 6056

1. FOLLOWING MY JUNE 19 LETTER TO LON NOL ON THE  
NEED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE OPENING OF ROUTE 5,  
FIRST DIVISION COMMANDER BG ITH SUONG WAS ORDERED TO  
RETURN TO THE AREA. THE FIRST BATTALION OF HIS DIVISION  
ARRIVED ON JUNE 20. THREE OTHER BATTALIONS FOLLOWED ON  
JUNE 21. THE REMAINING THREE ARE EXPECTED TO CLOSE  
TOMORROW, JUNE 22. AN M-113 SQUADRON AND A 105 HOWITZER  
BATTERY ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO JOIN THE ATTACKING FORCES.  
OPERATIONS COULD BEGIN AS EARLY AS JUNE 23.

2. WE HAVE EMPHASIZED TO THE GENERAL STAFF  
AND TO ITH SUONG THAT ROUTE 5 WILL HAVE PRIORITY FOR U. S.  
AIR AND URGED THEM TO GET PLANS IN ORDER FOR MAXIMUM  
USE OF THESE AIR RESOURCES.

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3. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL URGE THE GKR TO USE ROUTE  
5 CONVOY TRUCKS NOW IN PHNOM PENH TO BEEF UP THE ROUTE 4  
RICE CONVOYS AND ARE URGENTLY EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF  
A SPECIAL MEKONG CONVOY FOR TWO RICE BARGES (3000 TONS)  
ALREADY LOADED IN KOMPONG SOM.

4. WHILE IT IS IMPERATIVE TO MAINTAIN MAXIMUM  
PRESSURE ON FANK TO REOPEN ROUTE 5, WE NEVERTHELESS  
CONSIDER IT PURDENT TO PLAN ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS FOR  
AND AID- FINANCED BATTAMBANG- PHNOM PENH RICE AIRLIFT. IN A  
SEPARATE MESSAGE CHMEDTC IS ALERTING CINCPACTO THE REQUIREMENT SO  
THAT NECESSARY PLANNING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED. HIS MESSAGE HAS  
OUR FULL SUPPORT. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, REQUEST ACTIVATION OF THE  
AIRLIFT ONLY IN EVENT OF A RICE EMERGENCY IN PHNOM PENH. SWANK

SECRET

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ECON, MOPS, CB  
**To:** BANGKOK  
CINCPAC  
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COMUSSAG  
SAIGON  
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